

Sept. 16

## **Dealing with Difficulty**

### **Nehemiah 2:13-20**

- I. The Difficulty of Obstacles (vs13)
  
- II. The Difficulty of Pain (vs17)
  - A. Failure
  
  - B. Fear
  
- III. The Difficulty of Opposition (vs19-20)
  - A. Ridicule
  
  - B. Haughtiness
  
  - C. Confusion
  
- IV. The Determination to Overcome (vs18)
  - A. Activated by the Spirit of God
  
  - B. Saturated by the Word of God
  
  - C. Dedicated to the Love of God
  
  - D. Rejuvenated by the Fellowship of God

## Questions

1. What are the difficult obstacles we encounter as believers?
2. How do we deal with the pain of difficulty?
3. How do we with opposition from difficult people?
4. How do we overcome difficulty?

**13** And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

**14** Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but *there was* no room for the animal under me to pass.

**15** So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

**16** And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

**17** Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

**18** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me.

So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to *this* good work.

**19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard *of it*, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What *is* this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

**20** So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."